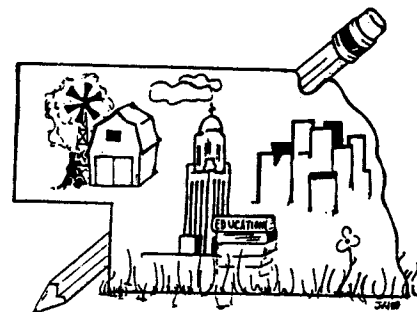


# The Nebraska Observer

Vol. 5, No. 12, December 6, 1990



## Why Nebraska Taxpayers Should Finance Elections

by Frances Mendenhall

I heard someone in a black church say, "Everybody wants to go to heaven but nobody wants to die." That is the way it is with campaign finance reform. Everyone is disgusted with mudslinging, lavish spending, 20-second sound bites and cheap shots, but nobody wants to pay the price to change things.

Nebraska's recent gubernatorial election is a good example. Ben Nelson outspent everyone else in sight in the primary to buy an image. It was an image unavailable to anyone who didn't have half a million lying around to fund a campaign.

The increasing importance of TV advertising is a guarantee of superficiality, which quickly degenerates to mudslinging. Nelson was accused of involvement in junk bond financing; Orr was castigated for raising taxes. Both received heavy financing from special interests and sources outside Nebraska.

The days when campaigns were about real issues and candidates were accountable only to the voters seem very remote.

Controlling the way campaigns are financed is one way to decrease the dependence on TV ads and other expensive tactics. But attempts to pass laws limiting the dollar amount a candidate can spend have been found unconstitutional.

The only other way to limit campaign costs is to offer incentives to candidates to voluntarily limit their expenditures. This can only be done with public financing of campaigns.

Common Cause, the nationwide citizens' lobby, has been working on this issue for several years. Two years ago, it initiated a bill that would have provided the majority of the dollar amount of the proposed campaign spending limit. That proposal would have cost the taxpayers of Nebraska about \$1 million per year. It never got out of the starting gate.

Since then, supporters of campaign finance reform and Common Cause members have been seeking a compromise that will be acceptable to the Nebraska Legislature. They formed a bipartisan task force composed of 16 Nebraskans with a long-time involvement in lawmaking. The task force has met throughout last summer, with the purpose of offering a proposed bill to the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee of the Legislature. On Nov. 28 the task force presented its findings to committee. Based on their findings, committee chair Sen. Dennis Baack of

Kimball will introduce legislation in the next session of the Unicameral.

The level of financing proposed by the new bill does not come close to relieving candidates of the need to raise funds. Its purpose is to offer just enough in the way of an incentive, that office seekers will agree to voluntary campaign limits. For every \$3 raised by the candidates, public financing will kick in \$1. It will cost the taxpayers about \$500,000 per year. The proposal limits general election expenditures to \$1 million per candidate for governor, \$150,000 per candidate for treasurer, secretary of state, auditor and attorney general, \$50,000 per candidate for legislators and \$25,000 for public service commissioner, University of Nebraska regent and State Board of Education member.

To qualify for funds a candidate would have to raise at least 10 percent of his limit from Nebraskans in amounts of \$250 or less beginning Jan. 1. No more than 35 percent of all campaign funds could come from sources other than individuals. Thus, the largest impact that a single PAC could have on a campaign would be 35 percent of the total.

The task force could not reach consensus on putting a ceiling on individual sources. One proposal would put a ceiling on each PAC, corporation, union, or individual. Suggested ceilings were \$25,000 for a gubernatorial candidate, \$10,000 for other statewide offices, \$5,000 for senator and \$2,500 for other covered offices.

But such a ceiling would reduce some Nebraska PACs such as the NSEA which has been known to contribute five-figure amounts in legislative races and large amounts elsewhere. Gordon McDonald of the Nebraska State AFL-CIO, quoted in the Lincoln Journal, said, "I don't have any problem with the candidate taking all of it from one source if they want to." Such a move would show where the candidate's interest lie but would probably be a liability, he said.

The current bill is flawed in that it does nothing to equalize opportunity between candidates with rich friends and those with more modest resources. It doesn't seriously reduce the possibility of a certain special interest buying a race. Nor does it make a big dent in incumbents' advantage. But it is a start. More importantly, it has a chance in Nebraska.

If it fails it will be because some people resent giving money to politicians. Members of the Legislature need to hear from voters who believe the bill is worth their support.



### Common Cause' Task Force

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# Executing Convicted Murderers Solves Nothing

by Frances Mendenhall

Harold Lamont Otey signs his name "Wili." The media has gotten used to calling him by a nickname that implies he has been released unfairly. Far from it. The state of Nebraska is trying hard to kill him, and has been for at least four years.

His most recent date of execution was set for Dec. 5, but the state Supreme Court agreed to hear evidence for a stay of execution two days before Thanksgiving. At its hearing, the court

could grant Otey a new hearing, or order the lower court to resentence him, or it could reinstate the execution order. If the execution order is reinstated, it will be up to the Pardon Board (the governor, the attorney general, and the secretary of state) to determine whether there is justification for a pardon, or a commutation of the death sentence, or whether a new date of execution will be set. The soonest this could happen would be when the Pardon Board meets next, on Dec. 17, but for that to happen, the Supreme Court would have to resentence quickly.

Legislation replacing the death penalty with life imprisonment with no possibility of parole is planned for the next legislative session. It could be out of committee and on the floor by early February, in which case Otey could be spared. If the legislation fails, later next year, Nebraska could still succeed in joining the ranks of states who have executed since the Supreme Court lifted the ban. That would make us the sole exception among western industrialized countries; we are in the company of nations like China and Iraq.

It wasn't too long ago that a crowd of 12,000 proclaimed itself to be on the side of life and stood carrying signs along Dodge street. They aren't saying much now. Apparently they're only interested in safeguarding life before birth.

The World-Herald, however, is telling us exactly where it stands; it wants to kill. Why? because Otey "deserves the ultimate penalty." Never mind whether anyone is helped by another death. Never mind whether the condemned man can be

rehabilitated. Never mind the fact that no one has ever demonstrated that the death penalty deters crime. Never mind the effects on society when the state tries to teach by killing that killing is wrong. Just get revenge.

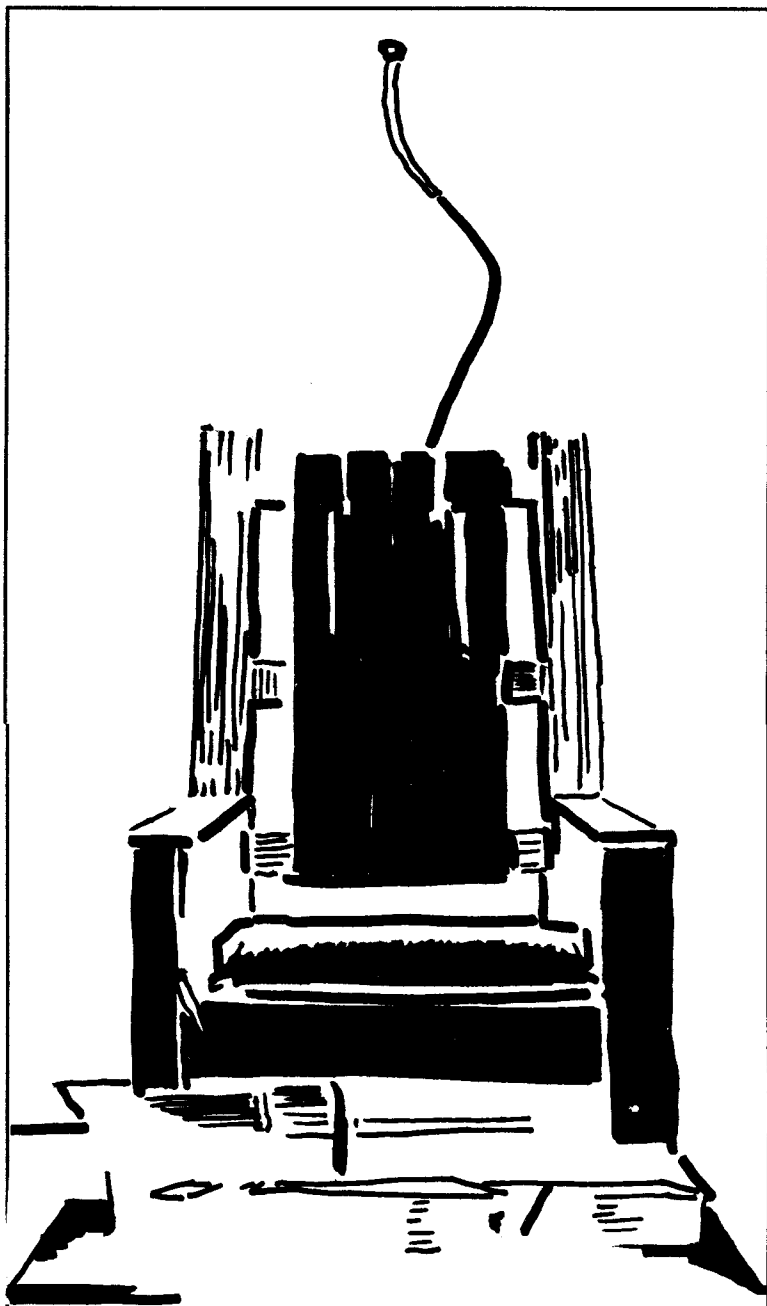
But what of the feelings of the victim's family? We all wish their pain could be soothed, but another killing won't help. The parents of the victim of another Nebraska death row inmate Randy Reeves, regularly testify against the death penalty.

It is just as appropriate to ask about the feelings of the convicted person's family. They too are innocent. Whether they believe their son/daughter is guilty or innocent, their plight is horrendous. Ask yourself how you would feel if your child were found guilty of killing. Do these people deserve the additional pain of having their child executed? What does the state of Nebraska have against Otey's mother, who comes to visit him from New Jersey?

Since his trial, Wili Otey has told many people he is innocent. The courts have not believed him, although the only substantial evidence was his confession that may have been procured under duress. Otey was sentenced based on a single murder, and no one is making the case that he would kill again given the chance.

On the contrary, many have seen in him a person of worth and promise.

*Editor's note: While we have enormous sympathy for the family of the woman Otey is convicted of killing, we believe that enough has been said in the media about her murder. To offer another perspective, we are printing a poem written by Otey earlier this year. See page 11.*



## Observer Deadlines

The next issue of the Nebraska Observer will be published January 2. Story ideas are due December 20. Copy is due December 26.

Story ideas for the January 30 edition are due January 18. Copy is due January 23.

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Dorothy Day House and Anthony House

# Two Shelters Where Homeless Get Help, TLC

*by Ellen Condon*

In the Omaha area, several shelters operate to serve the needs of the homeless. Among them are Day House, 801 North 20th street, which is open from 8 a.m. until 1 p.m. daily and provides a shower, a phone, a medical clinic, a clothing room, and breakfast and lunch are served. Anthony House, 1610 Locust street, provides a transitional home for approximately 20 men. Both shelters have been serving the needs of the community since the mid 1980s.

"Day House grew out of an era in which health care was becoming a privilege and not a right," said Joyce Rynazewski, a part-time nurse and one of the founders of the house. Out of this idea, a concept formed for the opening of a house and the first Day House opened at 19th and Leavenworth.

The operation moved to a different location because of "a fear towards the homeless issue," said Rynazewski. The operation moved to serve meals out of Central Park Mall. This lasted for nine months and in 1987 Day House was granted a city permit to operate at its present location.

"The house opened to create an environment for change. It's a house of hospitality more than a shelter," said Rynazewski.

"When you think of the homeless, there is a tendency to create a we/they relationship. In your own mind, it's about the homeless being some generic group out there who are very little attached to the rest of society. My conviction is that it's us, there's no we/they," said Richard Koeppen, a founder of Anthony House.

"The homeless don't know how to relate to one another as individuals. We have to relate to them as individuals, they are human beings each having individual traits. Homelessness is living on the edge," said Rynazewski.

"A good percentage of people that are elderly or in low income housing are our guests. We're there to fall back on," said Stanley Parr, a staff member of Day House.

Because social alienation continues, the fear of the homeless grows, said Rynazewski. "You can't stereotype the homeless. Families don't have the resources to deal with the social ills facing these people and they can't control themselves."

"Society has changed enough that the family structure isn't the same. Neighbors don't even know neighbors, community assistance is not what it used to be. Fifty years ago a person could go to someone's door and get food. Now people are being sent to the Day House," said Parr.

Both Day House and Anthony House remain in operation without receiving any tax exemptions. The two houses rely on support from the community, religious organizations and private donations.

"Any number of people keep us supplied with things. We have a farmer who donates

eggs, someone else keeps us supplied with soap. But we have to pay for the heat, lights and somebody to haul the trash away, that's the hard part," said Parr.

A new fundraising tactic has been initiated by Day House. This is to get someone to pay one of the monthly bills, or to donate certain items needed on a monthly basis.

## Phone Lines Billed at Business Rate

The bills from OPPD, MUD and U.S. West are among the largest finances the house has. Because there are three separate phone lines, one for guests, one for staff and one for the clinic, the house has business lines, making the phone bill the most expensive.

"We have a very minimal budget and survive on private donations. The Food Bank, Mount Michael Abbey, United Catholic Social Services, churches and various individuals contribute," said Rynazewski.

"Whatever we do is done only with the assistance from many good people. We get financial assistance from many parishes and individuals coupled with food and clothes from a variety of sources," said Koeppen.

Several Catholic parishes support Anthony House. St. Pius, St. Leo, St. Philip Neri and St. Albert (of Council Bluffs) employ guests as janitors and contribute to the house.

## Staff Are Unpaid

Four out of the five staff members at Anthony House live there. The staff members support themselves and the shelter. All work at the shelter without receiving a wage.

The mission of St. Anthony's is to work to alleviate for its guests and neighbors the suffering caused by social ills such as poverty and drug abuse. Guests are required to follow three rules, 1. no fighting on the premises, 2. no drinking or drugs on the premises, 3.

guests must be home by 10:30 nightly. The third rule can be negotiated if circumstances exist in which the guest must be out later, for example, job obligations. Employment is encouraged of the guests at Anthony House.

"Most of our people work; they can't work while they are drunk or under the influence. There is a diminishing aspect of that particular activity. It's my hope that if people will empower themselves to get the support and care they get here that they will want to change," said Koeppen.

Alcoholism as a disease affects more than 50 percent of the homeless population.

Anthony House staff "encourages our people to be more responsible," said Koeppen. The house has a van and a pickup truck available to drive to work or to run errands. None of the staff are counselors, so guests are referred to counselors.

"They almost have to make the choice that they are going to stop drinking. Different people come in for different support systems," said Koeppen.

## Day House Clinic

A full-time doctor, a medical assistant and a receptionist work at Day House clinic which is funded under a federal grant. "It's a world in itself," said Rynazewski of the clinic.

The clinic opened to care for basic medical needs. Those with lifelong or long-term problems are referred to the county. "Sometimes we have had physical disasters walk in. We try to meet their needs for that week and get additional assistance for them. We often don't have the equipment or knowledge to handle these disasters," said Rynazewski.

"A person may not get the basics treated until it ends up being a major thing," said Parr.

A person may come in with a cut on their finger and ask for a band-aid. "We need to

take extra time with a band-aid person. This may hide a larger problem. That person will come back to tell you their fears. A lot of it is they need a little bit of TLC," said Rynazewski.

Screening for diseases such as tuberculosis is held once a year.

The clinic has given clean needles to drug addicts to stop the spread of AIDS. "We have the opportunity to educate these people on AIDS, the immediate thing spreads to a larger issue," said Parr. "These aren't people who have a television, newspaper or radio. It doesn't help to give them a pamphlet and send them out the door. We're not saying these are stupid people. It takes a lot of self-respect to get out of this. We've got to sit down and talk to them. It's o.k. to talk to them, they may never have been talked to about it," said Rynazewski.

"Mostly these people want to have someone to come in and sit and chat. Just to listen, just to spend time with them. The homeless feel they are strange and need to be convinced that they are o.k.," said Koeppen.

## Question:

*What did Mickey Mouse get for his fiftieth birthday?*

*See page 12*



The Community for Creative Non-Violence offers hospitality for the homeless in Washington, D.C. The Community used this photo in its Christmas cards last year.

# Solve the Problems That Lead to Drugs and Gangs

by Ben Gray

*The author is a television producer, who also works with a program designed to help at risk youth...that includes gang members and former gang members looking for a way out.*

For the past two or three years politicians, law enforcement officials, social service agencies and other concerned citizens have pondered what to do about Omaha's "drug and gang" problem. The problem is really a much larger social problem; it won't go away until we quit missing the larger picture and commit ourselves to solving the larger problem.

Several narrow ideas have been advanced. Most of those ideas have revolved around greater law enforcement. To date, however, little has been accomplished.

It would help to look at what actually happened.

During the Reagan Administration they began a process called the "trickle-down theory." People on the outside call it disenfranchisement. Poor people and black people have watched a steady deterioration of programs that were in place during the '60s and '70s to help them develop a better way of life.

The Boys Clubs, Girls' Clubs and other youth programs were fully staffed; they had active participation from staff members, they had extensive outreach programs. Under the Reagan administration most, if not all, of these programs were cut severely. What's left is a situation where people are trying to help, but have limited resources.

Example: in the 1970s and '80s when this country allegedly had deep pockets the community Block Grant Program was developed to redevelop the inner city. In Omaha, officials used statistics from the North Omaha community, the blight and substandard conditions there to apply for federal funding. After getting millions of dollars for a number of years the city chose to build the Central Park Mall and found a way to justify how that was going to help black and poor people. After about 10 years of Central Park Mall development there is very little left to rebuild the deteriorating conditions in North Omaha.

Then came Ronald Reagan and cut even further programs that would have been of some benefit to that area.

I don't see how people can be surprised that we have a gang and drug problem. When you have at least 10 years of an administration that showed nothing but contempt for black and poor people stripping those people of their dignity, self-worth, self-esteem and the programs needed for them to get ahead, how can you expect anything else?

What do we do now? The Mad Dads have offered as a solution to families that they turn in any of their children that may be involved in drug or gang activity. Their theory is if you turn them in now you save them from a worse fate tomorrow. It's incredible to me that a

group of apparently knowledgeable black men would ask families, especially black families, to turn their children over to a "justice" system that has been inherently unfair throughout the sojourn of black people in this country. I can't believe that the Mad Dads understand what that really means.

Let's assume that you turn your 18-year-old son in for dealing drugs. If he's charged with a felony, he can never take the bar exam, he can never become a CPA., he can forget about working in any kind of financial institution, he can forget about a government position such as fireman or policeman, because that felony conviction will follow him the rest of his life.

I am not condoning drug dealing. But again we must solve the larger issue.

You have parents and other relatives who have been so whipped by the system that they turn the other way when their youngster brings home his drug profits.

You have police officers who are more interested in harassment of black people and violating constitutional rights than they are in solving the problems of youth violence and

drug dealing.

You have merchants who actually cater to gang members by maintaining a constant supply of gang colors, jewelry and the like.

And you have a problem with parents.

Parents have some responsibility to rear and educate, but society has an obligation to give them the opportunity to do it. The reality of poverty makes otherwise good parents work two or three jobs, leaving little time to rear their children or even know what they do.

Some, unfortunately (though not the majority), simply abandon or forget about their children in favor of a party lifestyle that benefits no one and makes children bitter. Some women caught in the triple bind of racism, sexism, and poverty act out of astonishingly poor self-esteem; I know of one who locked her children out of the house so she could keep the attention of a man--who, not surprisingly, contributed nothing to the woman's family.

This country is at a crossroads. Politicians tell us that we have limited resources financially and otherwise. But they can find the money for more jails, a solution that has never

worked. We have to learn that all jail does is make a harder smarter criminal.

We need to invest public dollars in alternative education programs like Father Flanagan High School here in Omaha. Although Flanagan High in recent times is turning virtually no one away, the school is still unable to meet anything but a fraction of the need. One reason for this is because it is located in an area where Crips and their followers are unlikely to go. According to Flanagan's Principal Fr. James Gilg, the school is largely unsuccessful in serving needs of youngsters who identify with the Crips, because of its location, near the Logan-Fontenelle Project, which is in a Blood area.

We need also to examine why so many young black people have so many problems in public schools; we may find that it is the institution not the child that needs assistance.

We need to borrow from ideas in the past that we know have worked and assimilate new ideas that have never been tried.

If we are not prepared to at least do this, we should stop crying in our beer about gangs and drugs.

## Administrators Take Care of Their Own

# Black Staff Too Few Within OPS

by Denny Holland

*The author is a long-time civil rights activist who has monitored the Omaha Public Schools' hiring policies since 1960.*

On Nov. 6, the Omaha World-Herald reported on an Omaha School Board action concerning a security aide fired for a racial remark. The board reinstated the security aide, suspending him 30 days without pay. Shawn Tate, a black OPS student, asked the board to reconsider its reinstatement of the employee. Tate referred to other past racial incidents at other OPS schools. Are black students overly sensitive about "racial incidents" or is the administration just looking the other way when such incidents happen?

I have observed the proportion of black staff continue to decrease since 1984, when the school district was relieved of the desegregation order. At the same time, racial incidents also increased. But white administrators are unlikely to turn this around, because when whites feel their family members or friends are entitled to jobs, but see these same jobs going to blacks, the so-called backlash takes over. Jobs are tight; everyone who works among administrative personnel has heard a white person complain when a black gets a job.

Let's look at some statistics on the number of blacks on the staffs of some schools. The following figures are quoted from OPS reports for the 1989-90 school year:

At Burke High School, 22.6 percent of the

students were black -- 5.6 percent of the total staff (both teaching and support staff) were black. Out of a total staff of 159, nine were black.

At Oak Valley Elementary where 14.2 percent of the students were black, there were no blacks out of a total staff of 39!

Black students made up 25.6 percent of the student body at Lewis and Clark Junior High. Eight percent of the full-time staff were black -- that's seven out of a total of 86. These examples are among OPS's worst, but there are many others almost as bad.

As the percentage of black OPS students increased to 27.4 percent for the 1989-90 school year, let's see how the percentage of black teachers has increased. According to OPS statistics, in 1973-74 minorities (including blacks, Hispanics, native Americans and Asians) made up 19.8 percent of the student body. Blacks were 9.5 percent of the teaching staff. During the 1989-90 school year, 9.9 percent of the teaching staff was black.

During this 16-year period, while the percentage of black students has gone from less than 19.8 percent to 27.4 percent the percentage of black teachers increased .4 percent. Would you say that the current stats reflect any effort in attaining the goal of OPS as stated in a 1987 report -- "ultimately the School District of Omaha will endeavor to have a total racial and ethnic staff composition which is reflective of the racial and ethnic composition of the student body"?

As the proportion of black staff has de-

creased the number of racial incidents has increased. The administration acts swiftly but quietly when such an incident occurs. For all the human-relations courses teachers are offered, white teachers who have never had any contact with the black community carry deep within them the prejudices they grew up with. Young black males are almost instantly perceived as dumb and incorrigible. Hence the high percentage of blacks in "special ed" programs. These black males correctly interpret the attitude of many teachers, thus the high dropout rate.

The district has stated they will "endeavor to have the total number of applicants at a minimum reflect the makeup of the student body." Note how cleverly that is worded -- number of applicants, not number of staff hired.

The district writes volumes about the various approaches and programs implemented to convince black students of the importance of education. Black students are not stupid. When they see the number of blacks working for OPS, they correctly deduce that education doesn't really matter because even with an education they can't get a job -- especially with the Omaha Public Schools.

There is no gentle way to put it -- what is happening is that administrators are very busy taking care of their "own" (read white family and friends) when it comes to hiring teaching or support staff. If the number of qualified black applicants is low, it is because blacks are aware of OPS's hiring policy.



# Why Have Guns Without Shooting?

By Norris Alfred

The hunting seasons are here in Nebraska, and I stick to the roads when birding. The problem with owning guns is the need to shoot them. Not only shoot them, but shoot at something; be it a bird, rabbit, squirrel, deer, antelope, or one another. That last target does not have an official season. In the United States it's open season the year 'round.

Frustrated hunters who have spent the day looking for something to shoot legally and not found it have been known to shoot at road signs. In fact, it has become a sport (there are always road signs available) similar to shooting a moving target. The difference being that the hunter is moving and the target is stationary. great skill is necessary to shoot a road sign while moving past it at 60 MPH in a car or a pickup. What else can be done with guns? Many gun owners have gun cabinets where

they keep them, take them out one at a time, polish the metal and the wood stock, see that the barrel is clean, and put them back. But guns are not like a picture on the wall--something to look at. There's that need to shoot them once in a while, if for no other reason than to prove that the owner is capable of aiming and hitting something.

The United States has a huge arsenal of guns and other weapons for a shooting war, and it must be frustrating to have all this weaponry, figuratively hanging on the wall or in a cabinet, and not to shoot it once in a while. Could that be the reason that the good ol' USA has been involved in a war at least once every decade since the end of WW II.

I don't know the answer to that last question, but it seems logical to ask it; particularly since the decade of the '80s was spent building a huge military arsenal and using it once

in a while. Most of it, though, was nobly stockpiled as a deterrent. That was the original idea. But that means there always needs to be an enemy to deter. In my book, an enemy is a nation that has attacked the United States: actually invaded or bombed our turf. I do not need to be told who the enemy is. Not since Pearl Harbor has there been any kind of an attack worth a war.

I know a hunter who claimed to a game warden that had arrested him for shooting a squirrel out of season that the squirrel was about to attack him, otherwise he wouldn't have shot it.

I know a President of the U.S. who said that Iraq's attack and capture of Kuwait was an attack on the USA's way of life, and he is preparing to shoot Saddam Hussein and his Iraqis. There doesn't seem to be any warden around to arrest him, if he actually shoots.

# New Guidelines Won't Improve Diets

by Colman McCarthy

WASHINGTON -- Someone more alert than a dozing armchair nutritionist is needed to educate citizens about diet and health. Secretary of Health and Human Services Louis Sullivan issued the federal government's dietary guidelines from his intellectual recliner the other day, complete with footrest and headrest that promise to let him doze through the 1990s.

Sullivan's current grogginess was on display in some statements accompanying the Nov. 5 release of the guidelines. They reflect, said Sullivan, "our expanding knowledge, and they respond to our citizens' demands for better, more usable advice about food and health."

If the thin and pasty gruel of bromides in the guidelines is a response to the "demands" of the public, then this is the most passive citizenry in U.S. history. "Eat a variety of foods," counsels the bold Sullivan. "Choose a diet low in fat," "eat plenty of vegetables, fruits and grain products" and go light on booze, candy and potato chips.

It needs to be remembered that Louis Sullivan is a physician, a member of a profession largely populated by nutritional illiterates. Only a handful of the nation's 125 medical schools require serious courses on nutrition. Quack diet docs producing best-selling weight-loss books command more attention than the occasional physician who does have sound knowledge. As a result of dietary ignorance among both doctors and patients, food-related death and suffering remain rampant from cancer, heart disease, diabetes, hypoglycemia, multiple sclerosis, ulcers, constipation, obesity and anemia, among others.

From the good doctor comes the message that he has no intention of offering citizens anything but information so obvious -- "use

sugar in moderate amounts" -- as to be near-useless. Nutrition education was not a concern of the Reagan administration in the 1980s and, from what Sullivan, along with Agriculture Secretary Clayton Yuetter produced on Nov. 5, it won't be for the Bush administration either.

The approach of both administrations to diet and public health was expressed in 1981 by John Block, at hearings for his confirmation as secretary of Agriculture. The Illinois hog farmer drew on his experience in the stys: "I know that they are not the same, but hogs are just like people. You can provide protein and grain to a hog and he will balance his ration. He will not overeat on the protein or the grain. People are surely as smart as hogs. Really, I think people deserve that prerogative. I am not so sure that government needs to get so deeply into telling people what they should or should not eat."

In 1978, funding for the federal Nutrition Education and Training program was \$26 million. After John Block was in office one year, it was slashed to \$5 million where it remained through 1990. An increase to \$7.5 million occurred this year, but it was still too small to keep pace with inflation.

With no leadership from the oblivious Dr. Sullivan, and the federal nutrition education budget amounting to 1/100th of McDonald's 1989 advertising spending and one-quarter of Jell-O's, citizens need to look elsewhere for information and advice. A rich menu is available, ranging from such nutritional classics as "Diet for a Small Planet" by Frances Moore Lappe, "Simple Food for the Good Life" by Helen Nearing, "Diet for a New America" by John Robbins and "The Complete Eater's Digest and Nutrition Scoreboard" by Michael Jacobson.

Each of these books has gone through

many printings, offering what the government's dietary guidelines don't: counsel not only on healthful foods but on the economic, medical and social costs of the standard meat-based diet. John Robbins offers facts that Louis Sullivan either conceals or has never heard of: 50 times more fossil fuels are needed to produce a meat-centered diet than a meat-free diet, the risk of a heart attack is reduced 90 percent if meat, dairy products and eggs are not in the diet, and the cost of a pound of protein from beefsteak would be \$89 if water was not subsidized.

Robbins and the other authors might be dismissed as nutritional zealots out to snatch hamburgers and corseburgers off the American table. Not true. Their goal is not a vegetarian diet necessarily but a disciplined diet. Sullivan lacked the courage to speak of dietary discipline. That pleased the American Meat Institute, which praised the guidelines. Of course it would. Nothing in the industry's current ad campaign to promote meat eating -- eat lean -- conflicts with Sullivan's advice to "trim fat." The health of the public comes after the health of the meat lobby.

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## Headline Envy

Our favorite post-election headline comes from a paper we admire, the Texas Observer:

"Skirttail Envy—What Ann Richards Had and Phil Gramm Coveted"

# Nebraskans Organize to Oppose War in Gulf

*The author is the founder and outgoing director of Civilian Based Defense Association.*

by Mel Beckman

In early November I attended a meeting of the board of directors of the Civilian Based Defense Organization, whose purpose is to increase public awareness of the feasibility of a national defense policy based on civilian preparedness to resist aggression nonviolently and effectively. I met people from other national groups who were very concerned about the Middle East. One of our other board members was a Palestinian, Mubarak Awad, who impressed upon us the urgency of the situation.

One of the first things that I came across when I returned to Omaha was the article in the Nebraska Observer by Peg Krach offering to help organize people interested in resisting the war. I was interested in doing the same thing, as were many others, and we met at my house Nov. 14 to begin planning what we could do in Omaha to express our opposition to this war.

The group held an immediate assembly, followed by a meeting, on Nov. 18 at 62nd and Dodge. About 160 attended this event.

The following Sunday we held a similar event at 24th and O. It was attended by 100 people, and 70 stayed for the meeting. Five task groups were formed at the meeting. People have begun to work in the following areas: a paid World-Herald ad (to the right), vigils and spiritual events, town hall meetings and contact with elected officials, support for troops

and hostages, and petitions to elected officials. The group has begun to use green ribbons to express "No war -- bring them home alive" at all our assemblies.

Strategy meetings are held between the larger meetings, and decisions are made by consensus.

On Nov. 29 we assembled at the Creighton Student Center while the CBS program "America Tonight" was being taped. Two hundred attended, including many Creighton students. The assembly was followed by a prayer vigil at St. John's Church.

Unlike the early days of the Vietnam War, many people are already concerned and willing to take responsibility for organizing.

Someone said "if there ever was a war that could be prevented, this is it."

When I became involved in opposition to the Vietnam War, it seemed harder to get people's involvement. I was not committed to public protest then because I felt that it could be counterproductive and public education about the background of the war was more needed. This case is different because war has not yet begun. The president needs to know where people stand; it is critical that we publicly declare our convictions.

As this paper goes to press our plans are as follows:

December 9

Prayer service at New Cassel Retirement

Center, 900 N. 90th, 1:15 p.m.; we will assemble again at 90th and Dodge at 2 p.m. with signs and banners. At 3 p.m. we will meet to plan strategy at New Cassel.

If you would like to be kept informed of our activities, please send your name and phone number to Concerned Citizens at the address below. Or, if you wish to have your name included in our ad in the World-Herald, complete the entire coupon.

For further information call

558-2085

453-0776

553-0945

Donations to cover our costs are welcome.

## WORLD HERALD PAID AD

Speak Out! Add your voice to those of other concerned citizens against war in the Middle East.

"WE, AS CONCERNED CITIZENS, SHARE A COMMON CONVICTION THAT WAR IS NOT AN ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION TO THE CURRENT CRISIS IN THE MIDDLE EAST. WE WILL NOT SUPPORT A DECISION TO GO TO WAR. WE VALUE THE LIVES OF ALL AFFECTED BY THE CRISIS, HOSTAGES, CIVILIANS AND SOLDIERS, AND WANT THEM ALL TO RETURN HOME ALIVE."

Complete this coupon to have your name appear in a World Herald ad supporting the above statement. Target publishing date: Sunday, December 16, 1990.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
(print as you want it in the ad)

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
(include zip) (signature)

SEND BY DECEMBER 10TH,  
with \$5.00 and the above information to:

Paid Ad — Concerned Citizens Against War in the Middle East  
P.O. Box 31434 Omaha, NE 68131

(Make checks to: Concerned Citizens - W. H. ad)

# Mother of Woman In Air Force Demands Equal Treatment For Women GIs in Saudi Arabia

by Peg Krach

*The author, a nurse educator and therapist, wrote an article in last month's Observer, "Nurse/Therapist: I Will Organize to Resist War," in which she proclaimed her opposition to war in the Middle East. Since last month she and others involved in the reorganizing peace movement have heard from hundreds of other Nebraskans with similar concerns.*

Our female GIs are systematically being degraded at the same time they are being asked to sacrifice their lives, an unsurprising turn of events given the prevailing distaste for women that some of our politicians show. (Sensible people were shocked at State Sen. Ernie Chambers' blatant sexism in his remark made for the CBS show "America Tonight," filmed in Omaha Nov. 29: a "psychotic" George Bush is under the destructive influ-

ences of Barbara and Margaret Thatcher just as Ronald Reagan was misguided by Nancy.)

Our women are placed in positions of undermined leadership in the Middle East, accepting Saudi restrictions against women. My daughter, who is in command of a truck unit, cannot drive. She speaks of the degradation that she must endure on a daily basis: "Sometimes it's rough being around the guys so much. Demeaning stories about women get old and the worst thing is some of the guys don't accept their behavior as demeaning. I look forward to the beginning and end of my day when I'm in the 'female officers' tent sharing women's companionship."

Military women in Saudi Arabia must abide by Saudi dress restrictions, keeping their arms and legs covered at all times even in extreme heat.

Saudi restrictions have given the military

an excuse to keep women in their place. When you think about it, isn't that what the military has always wanted to do?

Molly Yard, president of NOW, has stated, "We would be outraged if the administration sent American troops to defend South Africa from invasion, ordering black soldiers to 'respect the culture' by bowing their heads in the presence of white racists." Yard goes on to say that the gender apartheid in its purest, most brutal form which exists in the Middle East should deeply offend all Americans.

I am not only offended, but am outraged at the prevailing attitude of our politicians and acceptance of this dehumanization of our female GIs. If you can't treat them right, don't expect my daughter to heal the wounded or bag the dead. Don't expect the nurses to put the broken bodies back together. Treat them right or send them home now.

## From Grand Rapids, MI: With Support Coerced, Which of Us Is Hostage?

Dear Peg Krach and Peacist, Nebraska Observers,

Congratulations to all of you, and all of us: We've WON... temporarily!!

The strike date didn't happen November 17!!

The next strike date, January 15, is also OUR target!

With my son there, I ask which of us is hostage? I feel the suddenness and massiveness and now increasing deployment has become the Pearl Harbor rally/support event because all military personnel has a FAMILY ("Don't we support our boys?"), and we are being coerced into an insane political "commitment" for world-view.

Yes, we must and will do what we can in this nuclear age to use wisdom and intelligence and morality and humanity for ourselves and our posterity.

Onward in peacism,

Corinne Carey  
Grand Rapids, Mich.

Vital Interests or Vital Excesses?

# Campus Activists Need More Than Petitions to Jam War Machine's Gears

by Colman McCarthy

On the most militarized campus in America, some University of Notre Dame students are saying no to George Bush and his threats of war. The recent dedication of a \$5 million building for the school's ROTC program--the 10 percent of Notre Dame's enrollees is the nation's largest--was not enough to distract 1,600 students from signing their names in the days following to an anti-war petition.

"We demand that you make an immediate declaration stating that the United States will not make an offensive strike against Iraq," the petition tells Bush. "We condemn any ploys to provoke an Iraqi attack."

Other college campuses are stirring. A nationwide teach-in at 500 colleges is being organized for Dec. 7, with a student rally scheduled for Jan. 26 of next year.

Those are worthy beginnings. Follow-through is now the challenge. Upheavals, not just dust-ups, are needed. To be taken seriously--which means to jam the gears of the \$800 million-a-day U.S. war machine--college students need an exertion of collective power that goes beyond signing petitions against the Gulf encampment. It needs to include broad and long-term resistance against the persisting war-preparation and war-making ethic that America relies on, Saddam Hussein or not.

Such resistance isn't easy. College students in this year's freshman class were second-graders when Ronald Reagan became President. The preachments they have heard from him, and now echoed by Bush, are that someone, somewhere else--not us, not here--is always the problem.

For solutions, college students have been conditioned to quick-fix violence. There's a problem in Grenada? Bomb it. A problem in Libya? Bomb it. In Panama? Bomb it. In the Persian Gulf? Get the bombs ready and take aim. Greenpeace reports that 29 nuclear-capable surface ships, six nuclear-capable attack submarines armed with 500 nuclear weapons, six carrier battle groups and 478 Tomahawk missiles are now in the Gulf. That's still not enough. More are on the way.

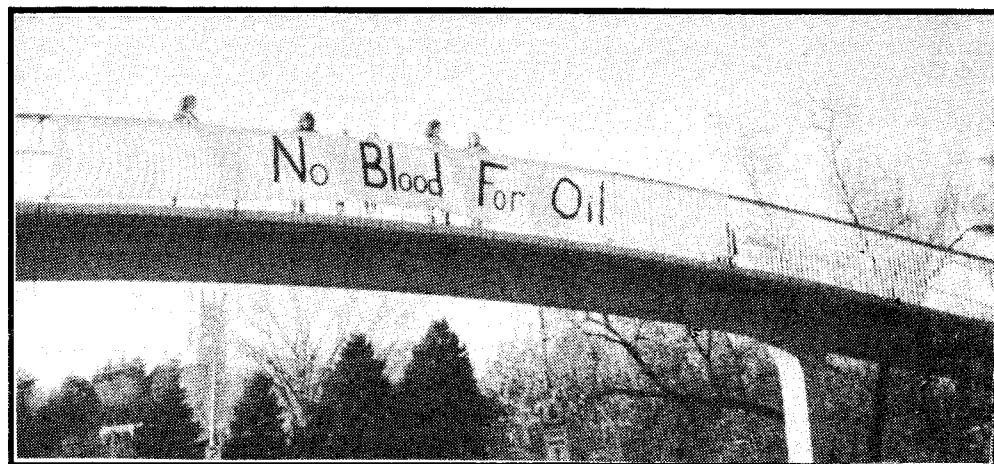
What can the organizers of campus anti-war protests do about that? Plenty. They can begin to wake up their individual campuses by reminding their schoolmates that opposition to U.S. militarism first means opposition to what the nukes, bombs and armies are protecting--"vital interests," which means vital excesses. Americans are 5 percent of the world's population but operate 35 percent of the world's cars. Twenty-six barrels of oil are

consumed annually on average by each American. In Italy, it is 11 barrels, Columbia two.

Four specific actions can be taken by campus organizers:

1. Circulate on all 500 teach-in campuses oil-reduction pledge cards on which students promise to reduce their energy consumption by 25 percent or more in 1991. How to do it? Less mileage in private cars, more on bicycles, foot or public transportation.

An oil-reduction pledge card is a focus on personal responsibility. A falsified reality has been created by the sellers of energy. In "The Steward," Douglas John Hall, a McGill University theologian, writes: "Companies that want you to buy their gasoline, oil and soap may be very happy to bring you entertaining family programs (on television), or even opera. But they are not likely to treat you to documentaries on the condition of peoples whose economies are in ruins partly on account of our inordinate consumption of the world's energy supplies and the interest they



Banner over Dodge St., Nov. 18, Omaha, Assembly by Concerned Citizens.

must pay on their debts to us."

2. Couple the protests against the military in the Gulf with opposition to the Pentagon's presence on campuses via ROTC. By lavishing cash and scholarships on students--mostly the strapped who couldn't get through school otherwise--a mercenary army is assured. Pressure administrators to find financial aid for low-income students exclusive of ROTC money that has countless strings--and ropes--attached.

3. Go into local high schools and provide information on conscientious objection to draft registration. Signing for the draft is the first it's-for-keeps decision that adult males make in this country. Yet how many high schools offer courses on draft resistance or even pass out literature so that the young have

a full option of choices?

4. Pressure college curriculum committees to begin or expand peace-studies programs. The history, methods and successes of nonviolence--both in settling conflicts in homes and workplaces, and among governments--ought to be an academic staple. It can be if students demand it.

A campus-protest movement that includes those, and other, local-based resistances can help bring on the structural changes needed globally. If Bush, the Pentagon and oil companies are the problem, then acting on answers to the question, "How do we stop cooperating with them and begin cooperating with true peacemakers?" is the solution.

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## WASHINGTON

Mark Alan Stamaty





## LETTERS

# 'Child Molester Hid Act With Aid of Abortion'

Dear Editor:

People mention abortion in cases of rape and incest but never explain who this really helps.

This child molester (see story below) could not possibly hide 10 pregnancies without the help of abortion. And to make matters worse, no one would dare ask (at an abortion clinic) why abortion was needed or how the pregnancy came about.

Many think it is crazy to ban abortions in cases of rape and incest but in this case, further abuse could have been stopped. Even a law allowing abortion in such cases, provided that the abuse is reported early, could have prevented the long and extensive abuse of these three teenaged girls.

—Andrew Sullivan

The following story was published in the Omaha World-Herald, Oct. 30, 1990.

Baltimore (AP) -- A man who raped three of his daughters repeatedly over three years has pleaded guilty to rape and child abuse. His wife, who brought the girls to him, also pleaded guilty.

The rapes caused 10 pregnancies, each of which ended in abortion.

Monday's pleas by the husband and wife, both age 43, were part of an agreement with prosecutors.

The father agreed to three consecutive life sentences and must serve the first 30 years. The mother, who had described the family as "very close and... very religious," agreed to a 25-year sentence.

The two oldest of the three daughters, now 17, 20 and 23, are daughters of the

woman from a previous marriage. The youngest is the child of both defendants.

The mother brought the girls to her husband, then was present when some of the rapes occurred, either pretending to be asleep or facing the wall while her daughters screamed and fought.

The abuse that began in 1981 remained undiscovered until March, when one of the daughters wrote at the bottom of a history test: "I hate life. I hate school. I hate people. I hope to die. Soon...!"

Police were notified, and two days later the father confessed.

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## Editor's Response:

# Enforced Pregnancy Cannot Help Incest Victims

Editor's response:

We usually print letters we get without comment, but the assumptions in the above letter need to be examined. I can't stop myself.—FM

For starters, we question whether enforced pregnancy is an appropriate way to uncover sexual abuse of children. Even if it were effective, which we doubt, we wonder what kind of society would fail to demand that there *must* be a better way to expose perpetrators of such an awful crime.

As to whether it would have been effective in the case cited or in any case, to make sexual abuse visible by making it illegal to terminate the resulting pregnancy, we wonder what kind of man Mr. Sullivan thinks is involved in these crimes. Would he have given up on getting an abortion for his daughters just because it was illegal? We doubt it. Furthermore, even if an *illegal* abortion were unavailable, we think that the father in this story was malicious enough that he might even have tried to perform the abortions himself! What if the girls had died from that?

When abortions were illegal, and young girls waited too long to get an illegal one, parents often sent their daughters elsewhere to have the baby, put it up for adoption, and then come back home. It seems possible that the crime of this father could have been hidden in that way.

As for a law requiring that the incest be reported early to qualify for an abortion, we wonder who Mr. Sullivan thinks might have done the reporting. In this severely dysfunctional family, there was no one willing or able to face reality.

We believe that in the case Mr. Sullivan cited here, that the only result of making abortion criminal would be that the girls would have had to go through more humiliation and a great deal of medical risk. We also think that much more must be done to educate our young people about sexuality, so that young abuse victims and those close to them would recognize what was happening to them very early and absolutely refuse to tolerate it.

# Farmers Should Abandon Subsidies

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed \$20 for one more year of subscription to the Observer. I truly believe in how you bring out our political issues.

We are farmers, have been for 35 years, owners of our first farm in 1963. We are proud to say we have not participated in government farm programs since then on any land that we own.

We did continue with a landowner, and one year accepted a deficiency payment on milk. This was sent to us simply for certifying our farm. Since then we no longer even certify, as we don't want to be tempted with government money.

We have been able to become debt-free, raise eight children, and we are presently helping two married sons start farming.

We are not the only ones who know and believe that farmers can and should try to get away from the strings of the government.

The main reason being that any time there is a handout of money, it leads people, farmers included, to put their trust in government instead of God, who is their best guide. It is

He who can send floods, drought, crop or people diseases, et cetera that hamper the net income.

It also makes owning the land too easy for nonfarmers and large farmers which smothers out the small farmer, in turn smothering out the small businessmen and small communities because these programs are based to the larger farmers or who can buy his farm with the government subsidies, and at one time even used it as a tax loss on his main occupation.

Since 1956, I have watched doctors, lawyers, bankers, et al. buy land away from farmers for greed and not because they wanted to to live and work the ground for a living.

We farmers need to stand up and say we can do without the government subsidies because we too want to lower the national debt.

We want to say we can and will teach others how it can be done.

Sincerely,

Maureen Faimon  
Blue Hill, Neb.

# 'Covert' Sens. Exon, Kerrey Approve Covert Action Bill

September 19

I have just become aware that at 3:30 a.m. on August 4 by a non-recorded voice vote a very dangerous action was taken by the Senate. Responsibility for covert actions were completely handed over to the president in exchange for the requirement of a "written finding" which the president may refuse to give either because the information is "sensitive" or because he may plead "executive privilege." And even if the "finding" is given the Congress would have no power to disapprove of the action.

In fact the president is now allowed to put to use in these covert actions the resources and funds of any federal agency or entity, thereby making it almost impossible to limit and to monitor the use of tax monies which are supposed to be directed to specific purposes as approved under the budget for each tax year.

This is worse than taxation without representation! This is subversion of the legally collected public money to the totally unrestricted use of those tax monies in any way which a particular president or his advisors may see fit. I thought we had chosen to be governed by a president--not a monarch with absolute powers and a "divine right" granted to him by those who should be serving as counterbalances to any such arrangement.

Added to this arrangement for robbing

public agencies of their funds for specific needs the president is also allowed to give those funds "third parties" and "private contractors" to carry out his covert actions. Obviously the expenditure of public funds is now going to be protected from public and even congressional oversight any time the president and his advisors want to engage in "covert actions."

I feel betrayed by you and by all the members of the Senate of the United States not only because you have given away our rights as citizens but because you took this action in a way that leaves no record thus no responsibility for its consequences. I do not believe in a "covert" senator so please advise me what you are going to do when this bill (S2834) comes up for a final vote. I hope that you intend to oppose it if it still includes the "oversight" section under Title VII of the original bill entitled "Oversight of Intelligence Activities." Please assure me that you will contact Mr. Tony Beilenson who will be in charge of the House Intelligence Committee and who will be studying this bill which is H.R. 5422.

I do not know what is in the House version of this bill. But if it includes the provisions I have just described which you have already approved in the Senate it is totally unacceptable. I had understood that this was an attempt to "reform" the processes of the intelligence

next page



# GATT and Sustainable Agriculture

by Marta Cleveland

*Meetings for negotiating the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) in Brussels are coming to an end the first week of December. They are being attended by Nebraskans Bob Warrick of Meadow Grove, and Annette Higby of the Center for Rural Affairs.*

*As this paper goes to press, there are indications that the negotiations are falling apart, and that possibly no agreement will be formed. If that happens, the negotiators may return to the table later. Katy Hansen of the Center for Rural Affairs believes that that possibility might open doors for considerations such as sustainable agriculture (see below) and environmental priorities, which really didn't get a fair hearing the first time around.*

Brussels--An international deligation of sustainable agriculture organizations which convened in Brusels this week wasted no time in issuing its own proposal to the international trade negotiations scheduled to meet here next week.

Delegates from 15 countries, including the United States, gathered here in advance of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) meeting for a sustainable agriculture conference to draw attention to the environmental failings of the current GATT proposals.

"The failure of GATT to consider the environmental consequences of its actions call into question its relevance and legitimacy as an international body in the 1990s" said Annette Higby, a delegate from the Center for Rural Affairs in Walthill, Neb.

The sustainable agriculture conference urged GATT negotiators to convene its Trade and Environment Working Group, a body set up within GATT 19 years ago, but which has never met.

One of the aims of this round of GATT talks is to curtail government income supports to farmers. Conference participants voiced reservation about the United States' proposal

for trade liberalization and those of several other countries.

The conference firmly endorsed a proposal developed by the U.S. Sustainable Agriculture Working Group, a network of farm, religious, environmental, and consumer organizations, for a more environmentally and socially appropriate means of minimizing trade conflicts. The Working Group proposal would permit producer income and price support under the following circumstances:

a) Payment or price supports do not influence a producer's choice of crop or livestock other than to encourage resource conserving farming systems.

b) Payments are not provided equally on an unlimited volume of production, but are concentrated on a volume of production necessary to support a family, and are targeted to those who have a need to rely on farm income.

c) Receipt of payments is conditioned on proper land stewardship with exseptins limited to clear and justifiable standards of undue economic hardship.

d) Price stabilization programs must include offsetting effective supply control provisions.

The conference also proposed that health and safety regulations be harmonized under international standards to protect developing countries from the dumping of chemicals that have been banned in the United States provided that nations reserve the right to enforce higher standards.

The 49 delegates to the conference include representatives from Chile, Japan, The Caribbean, West Africa, Czechoslovakia, and the European Community. U.S. delegates included Ron Kroese of the Land Stewardship Project in Marine, Minn.; Joe Fitzgerald of the National Catholic Rural Life Conference, Des Moines, Iowa; Annette Higby of the Center for Rural Affairs in Walthill, Neb.; and Bob Warrick, a farmer from Meadow Grove, Neb.

## Legislation Subverts Accountability

*Continued from previous page*

agencies and to make them more accountable to the Senate, the House and the public. As it has been written (and approved by you) it completely subverts that aim and in fact puts us all further in the dark about what our government is doing on our behalf.

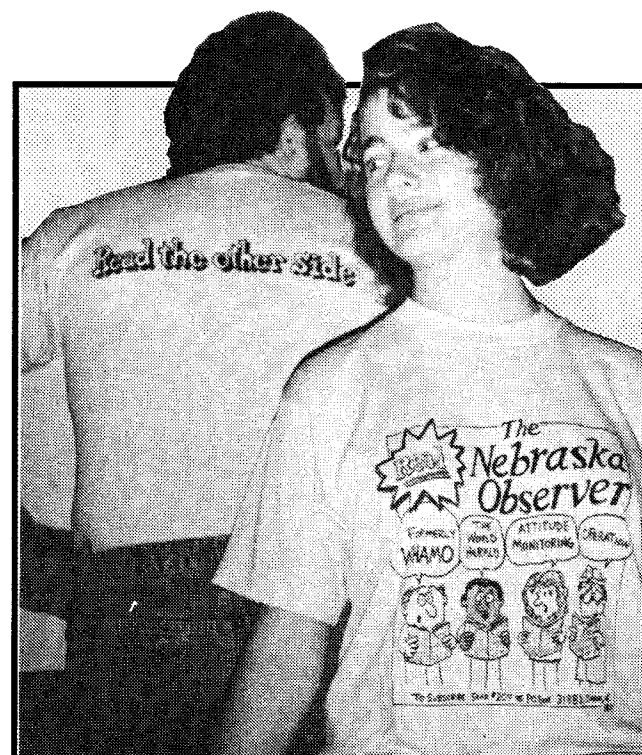
Are we still a people who is governed by a government which is "of the people, by the people, and for the people?" If we are no longer a democracy but simply tools of a demagogue and if that includes our congressmen as our representatives then we need to

reform not only the national security agencies but our whole national structure.

—Marge Farmer

*The above letter was never answered and the bill was finally passed by another voice vote in the House. I did not find this out from the Bill Moyers show late November. Apparently none of the three of my elected representatives is taking any responsibility for this complete surrender of our hard-won rights, not only to have input into decisions about expenditures but even to know what those expenditures are.*

## Nebraska Observer T-shirts



For those who appreciate the other side of the news.

- 50/50 poly-cotton knit, heavy
- silver blue
- \$10 each plus shipping
- We can include a gift enclosure card if you wish.

*A pleasure to own, a delight to give.\**

*\*The Post Office is confident of Christmas delivery for Nebraska orders received by December 17. Allow longer for gifts for people outside Nebraska.*

### Yes!

Send \_\_\_ t-shirt(s) to the following:

Sizes:  
(circle)

S M L XL

S M L XL

Cost:

\$10 per shirt

Shipping:

\$2 per shirt

inside Nebraska

\$2.50 per shirt

outside Nebraska

☐ Check for gift enclosure card.

# Couldn't We Do Without All This Sign Clutter?

by Frances Mendenhall

Lisa Lemble is a former Omaha city planner who now lives in Ann Arbor Michigan. She recently visited Omaha and we had a discussion about Omaha's sign ordinances.

If you are not like Lisa, one who has dedicated your life to the fine points of the urban environment, you may wonder why sign ordinances matter. I did.

Here's why.

Our urban environment is shabby-looking, and long ago sold out to advertising in a way that lots of other cities resisted, and even today, certain developments have avoided. "You notice that when you come here from another city," said Lisa. "Omaha looks tacky."

I realized she was right when I thought about how my second favorite city, Seattle, looks. All you see is landscaping, mountains, the ocean, beautiful architecture, and sculptures in public places.

I am not fond of billboards, especially in the quantity we have them in older parts of Omaha. I have also met with frustration in fighting them. It was a huge source of chagrin to me to have a commercial billboard 50 feet above the location of my dental practice advertising the greatest single health risk legally marketed. Neither the ad agency nor my landlord gave me any sympathy, and, in fact, responded by putting another cigarette billboard on the back side of the first one. I moved.

Another Omahan who has strong feelings about sign ordinances in Omaha is architect Wayne Whitmarsh. Whitmarsh objects to the cluttered look of yard signs in residential areas, especially real estate signs. The use of For Sale signs in yards after the sale is made, with the addition of a "sold" sticker is in fact illegal. After the sale, the presence of the sign does not serve to advertise anything except the real estate company, Whitmarsh points out. This is not only unnecessary clutter, but it is also an unfair advantage for realtors who are not associated with the larger firms. Whitmarsh believes that smaller realtors all prefer no signs or generic (i.e., only the words "for sale" and a phone number) signs, but are reluctant to say so publicly because they fear the larger companies, for whom they often must work, will blackball them.

Although many Omaha realtors seem to favor the use of the signs, according to Lisa Lemble, realtors in other communities, where such signs are not allowed, prefer to prohibit them. "If nobody could have them, neither the seller nor the buyer would depend on them," she said. People would use want ads in newspapers instead.

But the Planning Department has a different point of view.

Existing laws are inconsistent relating to yard signs, banners, balloons, etc. They are also poorly enforced. In order to reconcile the discrepancies and get rid of laws we can't enforce, they intend to liberalize the sign ordinances. "I don't think it was the intent of the zoning ordinance to say real estate companies couldn't put sold stickers on their signs," said Susan Kelley of the Planning Department, who is the main person favoring the proposed changes.

On the Planning Board's Dec. 5 agenda are recommended amendments to the zoning ordinances relating to signs. A public hearing will be included in the meeting. By the time you read this the first of the meetings will have happened and the Planning Board will have decided to revise the recommended amendments, forward them to City Council, or reject them. Since key people in the Planning Department favor the recommendations, it is unlikely that they will be rejected.

At issue here is the standard of the community. While visiting with Susan Kelley, I noticed a picture of a sign-cluttered street in Hong Kong on her wall. "There is where we are headed without tougher sign ordinances," I said to her. "It all depends on what the community decides is appropriate," she responded.

I hope that our city will not cave in again to commercial forces. It is not too late to decide to enforce existing laws and even to strengthen them, as other cities have done. We can all live without having to wade through more advertising, especially on our lawns. For copies of the proposed changes and current information about the status of the considered changes contact Susan Kelley of the Omaha Planning Department, (402) 444-5364. Or contact Wayne Whitmarsh, 556-8074, or 554-2500.



## MY MISSION IN LIFE

- 1 TO AFFLICT THE COMFORTABLE as publisher of the Nebraska Observer.**
- 2 TO COMFORT THE AFFLICTED as Frances Mendenhall, D.D.S.**

*If your teeth are in need of comforting, please call for an appointment.*

*Frances Mendenhall*

New Address:  
1325 N. Saddle Creek

Same Phone  
551-2629

*Observer reporters carry  
no more than \$20 in cash  
after dark*

# On the Gift of an Oklahoma Brick

*This poem was written to go with a gift of an Oklahoma brick to a journalist (Les Whitten) by a journalist in the late '70s. We are printing it as a gesture of courtesy to the team that beat Nebraska November 23. If Gandhi had been a football fan, he would have approved.*  
by Terry Mendenhall

This brick was made from red Oklahoma clay more than fifty years ago.  
It is the color of the earth and grasses there  
And the faces of the men who lived there first.

It is the color of the rusting barbed wire fences  
And the rusting rocking-horse oil pumps on the endless prairie.  
It's the color that Phillips 66 refined for thousands of signs along I-40.  
And it's the color of the bull on the billboard that says "Beef Makes Oklahoma Makes Beef."  
It's the color of the polished mahogany desks of the oil executives And of their twenty-story brick prairie skyscrapers.

It's the color of seventy thousand shirts and seventy thousand cowboy hats in the O.U. stadium when the Sooners perform their ritual battles.  
It's the color of the faded stripes on the courthouse flag in Muskogee  
And the necks of the oil well drillers in Pawhuska  
And of the heart on the bumper sticker that says "Goat-ropers need love too,"  
And of a volume of Baudelaire's collected works in the Tulsa public library, resting undisturbed in ten years' dust.

It's the official color of the flowers on the state tree  
And the river at the Texas border  
And the budget sheet of the state department of education.

It was the color of the eyes of the Cherokee who lived through the Trail of Tears and arrived on the land in the 1830s.  
And the color of the dust on the clothes of the Okies who left it in the 1930s.  
It was the color of Woody Guthrie's weathered hands and impassioned heart,  
Of Will Rogers' dusty bandanna,  
And Ado Annie's eager young lips.

It is the color of the rolling wheat that sure smells sweet  
And the tails of hawks circling over the scrubby plains  
And it's the color of the evening sky behind the sprawling prairie cities that arose out of the clay that made the brick.

## Untitled

by Harold Lamont Otey

*The author is a Nebraska State Penitentiary prisoner on death row.*

January 2, 1990

i wonder how the old neighborhood looks  
after the twelve years i have spent in prison  
the grey house weatherbeaten with the cracked crumbling sidewalk at 223 seaview avenue  
across the street from the projects called seaview manor where my mother still lives  
next to the dirt field where gladiators named ollie and elijah little eddie and me  
dreamt heroics in small doses that could one day ease the pain return to show the tv cameras that  
yes growing up was hard  
along the abandoned sidestreets of living shattered glass beer wine cutty sark seagram's 7 robitussin AC bottles  
were strewn amid unmasked weeds discarded dreams junked automobiles  
those desolated handmedown minds we treasured overtly  
i wonder why some believed making drug deals  
boosting five-and-dime store undergarments (to sell to poor people)  
would somehow start their lives get that rent-a-car so  
they could sit and pose while the pig cruisers rode by enamelled-eyed  
i wonder how those planks the miles of boardwalk which talked  
have fared beneath the aloneness perambulating late night strolls  
being pinched by the briny sass of the ocean breeze bansheeing  
i wonder how many of those school kids i knew overdosed next to  
the train tracks under the trestles used as shooting galleries  
how many lie homeless in gutters overcome by the unforgiving  
i wonder how many died with or without tears  
why how come i was never told  
here in this cell i wonder how it feels to others to be  
imprisoned in a selfness divined  
blasphemed by this request to be loved in 1990?

# How to Handle a Date Who Makes You Sick

*Dear Lulu:*



Dear Lulu:

My boyfriend says he is so in love with me that he can't eat or sleep, yet he is grossly overweight and snores all night. Is there any explanation for such a man?

Love, Perplexed in Vermont.

*Dear Perplexed:*

First of all, I'm afraid we don't answer letters from people in Vermont. Oh, we realize you folks have lots of problems, but what with the high price of gas, the dust storms from west Nebraska and the new census, I have all I can do to handle letters from Nebraska folks. However, since it looks like you're in a real pickle, I'll try to help. In short, there is no explanation for any man. Best of luck.

Love, Lulu.

Dear Lulu:

I've had a lot of problems lately and my doctor says I'm going through "Men of Paws." What in the world could this be? I've known a lot of men in my time -- some cute, some ugly, some with warts, one with nodules, but none with paws. Oh, of course there was Albert who seemed to have paws everywhere, but honestly, this just has me baffled. Should I be worried? Should I call the Humane Society? I'm just at a loss.

Love, Whacked in Wahoo.

*Dear Whacked:*

Yes, you certainly are. And well you might be. "Men of Paws" is a somewhat common canine disease, catchable by women somewhere between the ages of 45 and 50, also called "Change of Strife." The only known cure is confinement to a very small space. I suggest you lay in a good supply of Puppy Chow, buy a sturdy leash and tether yourself to the bed until your 50th birthday. Good luck.

Love, Lulu.

*Dear Lulu:*

I'm an elderly widow who never dated after my dear sweet Clarence died many years ago. But there's an older man in my church who has asked me out many times, and he is a Christian, so I relented and went out with him the other night. He was all right until we got in the car to take me home and he started talking about how he had lots and lots of girl friends; how he had three of his original teeth and how his underwear was too tight. Well, it just made me sick, and I told him, "You're making me sick." And he said, "Oh, no I'm not." And I said, "You're making me sick." And he said, "Oh, no I'm not." So I threw up on him. Was I right?

Love, A Widow in Wauneta.

*Dear Widow:*

"Date-retch" is a very drastic thing but it sounds like you were justified. That and a can of mace will work every time.

Love, Lulu.

Dear Lulu:

I'm so concerned about my only son Butch. He doesn't seem himself lately, what with hiding out in his room, talking back to his father, hanging out with a bad crowd and wearing some silly little spoon around his neck. When I ask him about it, he just says I wouldn't understand because I'm "straight." Well, for heaven's sake, what should I be -- crooked? He keeps using words like "nose



candy," "goof balls," "spacing out," "wiggled up," "smashed," "goofed" and "crispy." Just what does this mean? And now he's painted something on his pickup! Can you imagine? And it's a word I can't even pronounce. So I'm sending you a picture. What in Jehovah's name does this all mean?

Love, Distracted in Dannenbrog.

*Dear Distracted:*

It means both your boy and his vehicle need more than a wash job. Try locking him in his pickup without the keys for about three years. I know it'll be tough watching him squirm out there while you do the supper dishes, but it'll be worth it in the end. My cousin Elmo tried it on his boy when he started acting up a few years ago, but the boy needed only 26 months in the family Dodge before he came around, and he's just fine today with no side effects other than he's married to a Guernsey heifer, but considering some of the girls he dated, it's an improvement. Hope this helps. By the way, you take a fine picture.

Love, Lulu.

Dear Lulu:

My husband has always wanted a hobby so I told him to get a pet. Well, he's always loved animals but now he's started raising

what he calls "exotic" pets and he's really excited. He's so excited he demands they eat, drink and sleep with us. This was all right until last night when Harold, his favorite, bit me. Does it matter if a rat bites you? Any suggestions?

Love, Hobby-less in Homer.

*Dear Hobby-less:*

Tell Harold's master that you've got a new hobby -- spouse shooting. You'll give up yours if he gives up his -- immediately. Otherwise you'll return to "hubby-less."

Love, Lulu.

Dear Lulu:

I feel certain I have \$100,000.00 in a bank somewhere that President Bush's courier put there to recognize my accomplishments in life, but all the banks I've called don't seem to know anything about it. Can you help me?

Love, Broke in Bridgeport.

*Dear Broke:*

Somebody left the squirrel cage open. Uh, nope -- sorry. No help there. But if you find it, call me.

Love, Lulu.

Tired of no help? Got a gripe? Tell it to Lulu. She has to listen. Address your letters to "Dear Lulu," c/o Nebraska Observer, P.O. Box 31383, Omaha, Neb. 68131.

## Japanese Comic Hero Is A Rapist

The author works at the Center for Women Policy Studies and is founder/editor of *Pan Asian Women: A Journal By and About Asian Pacific American Women*. Reprinted by permission from Ms., November/December 1990.

by Natsuko Yamaguchi

"Manga" is a type of popular Japanese literature similar to comic strips. When the manga form began flourishing in the 1950s, it was filled with creativity and intelligence.

Not surprisingly, a manga written for women is usually a love story. A manga for men, on the other hand, deals with sports, violence, sex and corporate culture. Though many different types of manga exist, The Rapeman is

particularly offensive. The hero is a male schoolteacher, hired by his clients to rape women "to put them in their place." Each chapter is named after a victim: Target 1 Yuki, Target 2 Ryoko, Target 3 Kanako, and so on. Again and again, the hero stalks, attacks and rapes a woman.

All this is graphically depicted. The women are invariably shown first struggling but finally "enjoying" the attack: an actress is grateful for being "taught" how to play a rape scene; a lesbian woman turns heterosexual after the rape.

The Rapeman runs as a serial strip in a major magazine, then the episodes are collected in book form. Published by Lead Publishing Corporation, The Rapeman is aimed

at the corporate market. Consequently, big company names often appear in the panels (for example, a Nikon camera used by Rapeman to photograph his gagged and bound victims). The "hero" is never caught. So the serial continues.

Such a manga book is sold in restaurants, on newsstands, even in vending machines. Because it is so available, to both adults and children, it is a powerful influence in Japanese society.

One feminist activist, Professor Kazuko Kawachi of Toyo University, lamented, "Some examples of the manga are educational, but those for men are absolutely dreadful." As a reaction, some women authors have created a new form: the feminist manga.

*Answer:  
A Dan Quayle  
watch*



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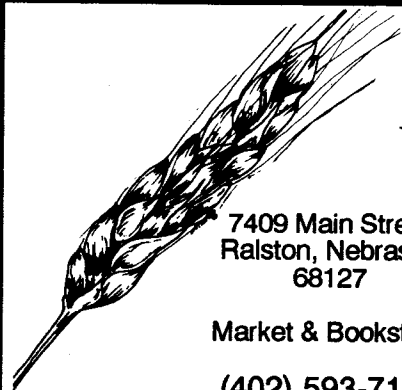
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## a r t e x h i b i t s

**Adam Whitney Gallery**

8725 Shamrock Road, Omaha  
393-1051  
Hours: 10-5 Monday through Saturday

**Anderson O'Brien Gallery**

8724 Pacific St.  
Through Oct. 6: Works by Barry Monohon.

**Antiquarium Gallery**

1215 Harney Street, Omaha  
341-8077

**Artists' Cooperative Gallery**

405 So. 11th Street, Omaha  
342-9617  
Hours: Wed.-Thurs. 11-5; Fri. & Sat. 11-10; Sunday noon-5.  
Through December: "The Last Picture Show," a grand finale exhibition with past and present members.

**Bellevue College Gallery**

Galvin Road at Harvell Drive, Bellevue  
293-3732  
Hours: 8 a.m.-10 p.m. M-F; 9-5 Sat.; 1-5 Sun.  
Through Jan. 11: Vice Hron prints and drawings.

**Bemis New Gallery**

614 So. 11th, Omaha  
341-7130  
Hours: 11-5 daily.  
Through Jan. 6: "Introductions: Mixed Media"  
Dec. 13: Bemis Slide Lecture with ceramists AnnMarie Wasshede from Sweden and Paul Popple from Italy.

**Burkholder Project**

719 P Street, Lincoln  
477-3305  
Hours: 10-5 Monday thru Saturday  
Holiday Gifts Show.

**Cathedral Arts Project**

St. Cecilia's Cathedral  
701 No. 40th Street  
558-3100  
Hours 1-3:30 p.m. Thursday-Sunday and by appointment.

**Council Bluffs Artist's Loft**

407 W. Broadway, Council Bluffs  
Hours: 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Mon-Fri; noon-4 p.m. Sat.

**Creighton Fine Arts Gallery**

Creighton University  
27th and California, Omaha  
280-2509  
Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Saturday; noon-4 Sunday.  
Through Dec. 15: Fall BFA Thesis Show

**Eyesound Gallery**

105 N. 50th

**Gallery 72**

2709 Leavenworth, Omaha 345-3347  
Dec: 6: 7:30-10 p.m. opening for J. Nebraska Gifford.  
Dec. 6-Jan. 13: J. Nebraska Gifford cereaics & sculptures; drawings & maquettes. Paintings on display at the Garden of the Zodiac.

**Garden of the Zodiac**

Old Market Passageway, 1042 Howard, Omaha.  
341-1877  
Dec. 6: 7:30-10 p.m. opening for J. Nebraska Gifford.  
Dec. 6-Jan. 13: J. Nebraska Gifford paintings. Other work on display at Gallery 72.

**Haydon Gallery**

335 N. 8th, Hardy Building, Lincoln  
475-5421  
Hours: Mon-Sat 10-5.  
Through Dec. 24: "Small Treasures," by various Haydon Gallery artists. The Gallery is closed Dec. 25-30.

**Haymarket Art Gallery**

119 So. 9th Street, Lincoln  
475-1061  
Hours: 10-5 p.m. Tues.-Sat. Mondays by appointment.  
December: "Old Fashioned Christmas."

**Hillmer Art Gallery**

College of St. Mary, 1901 So. 72nd Street, Omaha  
399-2621  
Hours: 1-5 daily except Friday.

**Iowa Western Community College Fine Arts Gallery**

2700 College Road, Council Bluffs  
325-3352  
Hours: 8 a.m. - 10 p.m. Mon.-Fri.

**Jewish Community Center**

333 So. 132nd St., Omaha  
334-8200  
Hours: 8 a.m.-10 p.m. M-Th.; 8-5 Fri.; 1-7 Sat.; 1-7 Sun.

**Joslyn Art Museum**

2200 Dodge, Omaha  
342-3300  
Hours: 10-5 Tues., Wed., Fri. & Sat.; 10-9 Thurs.; 1-5 Sunday.  
Admission: \$2 for adults, \$1 under 12. Free Saturday before noon and to members.  
Through Dec. 16: "The Modern Pictorialism of D.J. Ruzicka."  
Through Jan. 13: "Edward S. Curtis and the

North American Indian."  
Through March 3: "Recent Acquisitions"

**Local Artists Exchange**

Standard Blue  
1415 Harney, Omaha  
Hours: 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Mon-Fri; noon-4 p.m. Sat & Sun.  
Through Dec. 20: "Local Artistes en Masse — Expo '90," a juried show.

**Metro Arts Artspace**

601 So. 16th Street  
341-7910  
Hours: Mon-Fri 9-4 or by appointment.

**Museum of Nebraska Art**

24th and Central Ave., Kearney  
(308) 234-8559  
Hours: 1-5 Tuesday thru Saturday

**Passageway Gallery**

417 So. 11th, Omaha  
341-1910  
Hours: 11-5 M-W; 11-9 Thurs.; 11-10 Fri. & Sat.; 12-5 Sun.

**Photographer's Gallery, Inc.**

4831 Dodge Street, Omaha  
551-5731  
Hours: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Mon.-Fri.; 1-5 Sun.; Closed Sat.; or by appointment anytime.

**Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery**

12th and R Streets, UNL Campus, Lincoln  
472-2461  
Hours: Tues. & Wed. 10-5; Sun. 2-9; Thurs.-Sat. 10-5 and 7-9; closed Mon.  
Dec. 5: Faculty lecture by printmaker Karen Kucn at noon.  
Dec. 12: Faculty lecture by photographer Dave Read at noon.  
Through Dec. 16: "IBM Presents Paul Manship," 49 drawings, sculptures and medals.  
Through Jan. 13: "Department of Art and Art History Faculty Biennial Exhibition."  
Through Feb. 3: "Recent Donations from the James and Roxanne Enyeart Collection." A collection of previously unshown photographs primarily dating from the '70s and '80s including work by Jack Welpott, Nathan Lyons, Jerry Uelsmann and James Alinder.

**13th Street Gallery**

1264 So. 13th Street, Omaha  
Mixed media

**University of Nebraska at Omaha Gallery**

616 S. 11th Street (second floor in CAT)  
Hours: 10-5 Monday-Friday  
Through Dec. 20: BFA Thesis Exhibition by Timothy Gibney, Andrhea Giese-Gunia, Lisa Opava, Randy McElroy, Carol Mott, Amy Bauer and Cheryll Wallace.

**Art Institute of Chicago**

Michigan at Adams  
Chicago, Ill.  
(312) 443-3600  
Hours: 10:30-4:30 Mon., W, Wed.-Fri.; 10:30-8 Tues.; 10-5 Sat.; noon-5 Sun.  
Suggested Admission: \$5; seniors, students, \$2.50.  
Through Dec. 31: "Chicago Skyscrapers: Selections from the Permanent Collection."  
Through Nov. 25: "From Poussin to Matisse: The Russian Taste for French Painting."  
Through Dec. 2: "The New Vision: Photography Between the World Wars, Ford Motor Company Collection at The Metropolitan Museum of Art."  
Through Jan. 6: "18th Century Worcester Porcelain"  
Continuing: "The Art of Music: A Salute to the Centennial Season of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra."  
Through Jan. 2: "Ed Paschke: Paintings," and "Drawings by Ed Paschke."  
Nov. 21 - March 31, 1991: "Coverlets and Quilts."

**Des Moines Art Center**

4700 Grand Ave.  
Des Moines, Iowa  
(515) 277-4405  
Hours: 11-5 T, W, F, Sat.; 11-9 Thurs.; noon-5 Sun.; closed Mon.

**The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art**

4525 Oak Street  
Kansas City, Mo.  
(816) 561-4000  
Hours: 10-5 Tues.-Sat.; 1-5 Sunday.  
Admission: \$3 adults; \$1 students.  
Permanent collection free on Sat.  
Through Feb. 17: "South Asian Textiles from the Permanent Collection: Woven Patterns."  
Dec. 7-Feb. 10: "Organic Abstraction," work by seven contemporary abstract artists: Gregroy Amenoff, Carroll Dunham, Willy Heeks, Bill Jensen, Robert Jessup, Sandy Winters and Terry Winters.  
Dec. 16 - Feb. 10, 1991: "The Modern Poster: The Museum of Modern Art."

**Calendar Item or Gallery Announcement?**

These listings are provided by Boldface Publishing, Inc. Call or write attn: John Boyd. Boldface Publishing, P.O. Box 3685, Omaha, NE 68103-0685. (402) 341-9313.

## a r e a e v e n t s

**Events****Through Dec. 23**

Gingerbread House Display at the Mormon Pioneer Cemetery visitor's center, 3215 State Street, 9 a.m.-9 p.m. daily. Free admission.

**Through Dec. 31**

Crook House Christmas Sensation. The restored Victorian home at 30th and Fort is decorated for the holidays. Mon-Fri 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sun 1-4 p.m.; closed Thanksgiving and Christmas day. Adults \$3, children \$1.50.

**Through Dec. 30**

Christmas at the Dodge House. Enjoy the historic General Dodge House, 3rd & Story in Council Bluffs, decked out for the holidays. Open Tue-Sat 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sun 1-5 p.m. General admission is \$2.50.

**Through Dec. 2**

Ice Capades Family Show at Ak-Sar-Ben, 66th & Center. Performances through Dec. 1 at 7:30 p.m. and on Dec. 1 at 10:30 a.m. & 3 p.m.; Dec. 2 at 2 & 6 p.m. Call 556-2305 for ticket information.

**Dec. 1**

A Madrigal Dinner at the UNO Milo Bail Student Center at 7 p.m. Call 554-2979 for information.

**Through Dec. 2**

Dickens in the Market, continuous activities and entertainment in the Old Market area, around 11th & Howard. Fri 6-9 p.m.; Sat & Sun noon-5 p.m.

**Dec. 2-23**

Christmas at Union Station features Mr. & Mrs. Claus, caroling, treats and gifts. Held at the Western Heritage Museum, 801 S. 10th. Tue-Thur 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Fri 10 a.m.-9 p.m.; Sat 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sun 1-5 p.m.

**Exhibits & Displays****Through April 30**

"The Way to Independence

Memories of a Hidatsa Indian Family" at the Western Heritage Museum, 801 S. 10th Street.

**Through Jan. 13**

"Edward S. Curtis and the North American Indian" at the Joslyn Art Museum, 2200 Dodge.

**Through Dec. 1**

"Little House Under Construction" at the Omaha Children's Museum, 500 S. 20th Street. Call 342-6164 for information.

**Through Dec. 16**

"The Modern Pictorialism of D.J. Ruzicka"

at the Joslyn Art Museum, 2200 Dodge.

**Films****Dec. 2**

"The Little Thief," a 1989 French film by Claude Miller. At the Sheldon Film Theater, 12th & R in Lincoln at 3, 5, 6 & 9 p.m.

**Dec. 6-8 & 13-16**

"Jesus of Montreal," a 1990 Canadian film by Denys Arcand at the Sheldon Film Theater, 12th & R in Lincoln. Shows at 7 & 9:15 p.m. with matinees Sat at 12:45 & 3 p.m. and Sun at 2:30 and 4:45 p.m.

**Dec. 9**

"Therese," presented at Joslyn Art Museum's Witherspoon Concert Hall at 2 & 4:30 p.m., \$3.50 general admission.

**Dec. 20-23 & 27-30**

"Monsieur Hire," a 1990 French film by Patrice Leconte at the Sheldon Film Theater, 12th & R in Lincoln. Shows at 7 & 9 p.m. with matinees Sat at 1 & 3; Sun at 3 & 5.

**Music & Dance****Dec. 1**

Omaha Symphony in concert with pianist Peter Serkin at 8 p.m. at the Orpheum Theater. Call 342-3560 for ticket information.

**Dec. 2**

Bagels & Bach Sunday concert series at Joslyn Art Museum, 2200 Dodge, features music and a light brunch. Call 342-3300 for more information.

**Dec. 2**

Creighton University Christmas Concert, 7:30 p.m. at St. John's Church, 2500 California.

**Dec. 6-8**

Creighton University Student Dance Concert/D., at the Creighton University Performing Arts Center, 30th and Burt, 8 p.m.

**Dec. 13-16**

"The Nutcracker" is presented by Ballet Omaha at the Orpheum Theater. Performances Thur-Fri at 8 p.m.; Sat 2 & 8 p.m.; Sun 2 & 6 p.m. Call 346-7332 for ticket information.

**Dec. 15**

Die Meistersingers in a concert of seasonal favorites at Westside Community Church at 8 p.m. General admission is \$8. Call 496-7885 for information.

**Dec. 15**

Omaha Symphony Chamber Orchestra performs "Something Old, Something

New" at the UNO Strauss Performing Arts Center at 8 p.m.

**Dec. 20-23**

"The Magic of Christmas" is presented by the Omaha Symphony Orchestra at the Orpheum Theater. Performances Thur & Fri at 8 p.m.; Sat 2 & 8 p.m.; Sun 2 & 7 p.m. For ticket information call 342-3560.

**Dec. 27-31**

Mannheim Steamroller's "Fresh Aire Christmas 1990" at the Orpheum Theater. Call 444-4750 for times and ticket information.

**Sports**

**The Omaha Lancers** play U.S. Hockey League games at Ak-Sar-Ben Coliseum, 66th & Center, starting at 7:05 p.m. For ticket information call 556-7825. Home games for December are: Dec. 7 vs. St. Paul; Dec. 8 vs. North Iowa; Dec. 14 vs. Rochester; Dec. 15 vs. St. Paul; Dec. 28 vs. Madison; Dec. 29 vs. North Iowa.

**The Omaha Racers** play professional basketball at the Ak-Sar-Ben Coliseum, 66th & Center, starting at 7:05 p.m. For ticket information call 551-5151. Home games for and December are: Dec. 6 vs. Columbus Horizon; Dec. 9 vs. Sioux Falls Skyforce; Dec. 13 vs. Pensacola Tornados; Dec. 16 vs. Lacrosse Catbirds; Dec. 21 vs. Albany Patroons; Dec. 22 vs. Quad City Thunder; Dec. 25 vs. Cedar Rapids Silver Bullets; Dec. 27 vs. Rapid City Thrillers.

**Theater****Through Dec. 1**

"The Boys Next Door" at the Omaha Community Playhouse, 69th & Cass. Curtain Thur-Sat at 8 p.m. and Sun at 2 & 4:30 p.m. Call 553-0800 for ticket information.

**Through Jan. 19**

"My One and Only" at the Upstairs Dinner

Theater, 221 S. 19th Street. The George Gershwin musical comedy shows at 6 p.m. Thur-Sat and at noon on Wed & Sun. Includes dinner buffet. Call 344-7777 for reservations.

**Through Dec. 30**

"Madeline" at the Emmy Gifford Children's Theater, 3504 Center. Admission is \$8, and performances are Thur-Sat at 7 p.m. with matinees Sat & Sun at 2 p.m. Call 345-4849 for tickets.

**Through Dec. 22**

"A Christmas Carol" at the Omaha Community Playhouse, 69th & Cass. Show times are 8 p.m. Tue-Sat; Sun 2 & 6:30 p.m. Admission is \$20 for adults and \$10 for students. Call 553-0800 for tickets.

**Through Dec. 3**

"Best Little Whorehouse in Texas," at the Firehouse Dinner & Theatre, 11th & Jackson Street. Tue-Sat dinner at 6 p.m., show at 7:30 p.m. Sun dinner at noon and 5 p.m., show at 1:30 and 6:30 p.m. Wed dinner at 11 a.m. show at 12:30 p.m. Admission ranges from \$12-\$18.50 for show only, \$20-\$24.50 for dinner and show. Call 346-8833 for information.

**Through Dec. 16**

"Pickwick's Holiday," presented by the Grande Olde Players, 701 S. 39th Street. Performances Thur-Sat at 8 p.m. and Sun at 2 p.m. Admission is \$7 for adults, \$6 for students and seniors. Call 391-7888 for information.

**Dec. 7-22**

"Shooting Stars" at the Center Stage, 30th & R. A touring women's basketball team is about to face a local men's team during Christmas week, 1962. Performances Fri & Sat at 8 p.m.; Sun at 3 p.m. Call 733-5777 for more information.

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Canadian Press Reported Mohawk Struggle

# Natives Americans Invisible in U.S. Press

Reprinted with permission from *Lies of Our Times*, November 1990.

by Kristina Stockwood

In March, Mohawks from Kahnésatake, Quebec, set up blockades to protest the proposed expansion of a golf course onto ancestral burial grounds. On July 22, the Sureté de Québec (SQ, the provincial police force) attacked the Mohawks in an effort to dismantle the barricades, which blocked access to the disputed land. The incident resulted in the death of a police officer but it is not known whether the bullet came from a Mohawk's or a police officer's gun.

Native people from Kahnawake, a reserve south of Montreal, then blocked the Mercier Bridge in sympathy with the Kahnésatake Mohawks, provoking the ire of local residents who utilize the route to commute to the city. Riots broke out in August between police and South Shore residents and led the government to enter into negotiations to remove the barricades.

At a time when Prime Minister Brian Mulroney was also sending troops to the Persian Gulf, he ordered the army to position troops near the barricades set up by members of the Kahnésatake community outside the town of Oka, just west of Montreal.

## What Gets Covered.

During the four-month standoff, the Mohawks unsuccessfully sought international publicizing of their land claim issues. But the officer's death was the first incident to inspire a story in the *New York Times*, typical of coverage of native issues which do not receive attention until non-natives are involved.

In the 11 ensuing articles in the *Times*, members of the Mohawk Nation were consistently referred to as "militants" who were "heavily armed," although there were an estimated 200 Mohawks at the two barricades, facing some 4,000 troops, who had arrived with tanks to replace the SQ.

The Mohawks were threatened not only by the army, but also by angry residents of Oka and Chateauguay who were inconvenienced by the blockades and subsequently blocked the passage of food and medicine to the Mohawks. In a story filed from Toronto, much removed from the barricades, John Burns pitted these people, whom he referred to as "Canadians of European descent" (July 22, 1990, page A10), against the Mohawks. He implied that many non-native Canadians are afraid that native groups will take advantage of government negotiations to start a "revolution." The assumptions of the *Times* stories are racist towards native Canadians, as well as towards other non-European Canadians. *Times* reporters Burns and Chris Hedges need only read the Canadian press to find differing opinions.

In a story titled "Militants Divide Cana-

dian Mohawks" (Sept. 2, 1990, page A3), Hedges was quick to point out divisions within the Mohawk Nation, which includes the Mohawk Warriors Society, a group fighting for land rights using tactics not all Mohawks agree with. By diverting the issue from government negotiations over native land rights and sovereignty, Hedges's emphasis on the activities of the Warriors served to discredit the entire Mohawk Nation and posit them as "radicals" whose demands are unreasonable.

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A Tewa-Navajo/Apache, Rudy Martin, who is public relations director for the American Indian Community House in New York, said, "The powers that be in this country do not want the public to think of native people and sovereignty as one. To recognize the sovereignty of native people would only bring their dishonesty into focus and they would be forced to admit that they are living on stolen land."

## Who Gets Sympathy

Hedges wrote six stories in the beginning of September, culminating in a sympathy piece for the residents of Chateauguay. In the story, "Quebec Bridge Mends, but a Town is Scarred" (Sept. 5, 1990, page A11), he wrote about "the rancor between this town's white inhabitants and their Mohawk Indian neighbors." Since the reserve is outside the town, we are led to believe that only the residents of the town have been scarred, and only the white ones.

The Canadian press has been generally sympathetic towards the Mohawks. The *Globe and Mail*, Canada's national paper and rough equivalent of the *Times*, had front-page coverage showing a photo of the angry mobs of South Shore residents who stoned Mohawk women and children as they fled the reserve in fear of a military attack (August 29, 1990, page A1). Contrast this photo with the one that accompanied Hedges's article of Sept. 2

-- depicting a white Oka resident crying at the barricades as a police officer comforts him -- and it is evident where the *Times*'s sympathies lie.

The *Globe and Mail*'s Native Affairs reporter, Rudy Platiel, quoted both non-natives and natives from all over Canada, including politicians and leaders of groups such as Lawyers for Social Responsibility and the Canadian Labor Congress, who are critical of the government's actions, particularly the decision to send in troops. The most salient quote came from Chief Abel Bosum of the Ouje-Bougoumou Nation in a letter to Mulroney. He wrote, "We are appalled that the federal and provincial governments would give higher priority to address the 50 days of inconvenience to the non-aboriginal people than to the hundreds of years of denial of rights to the aboriginal people of the area."

In the same edition of the *Globe and Mail*, there was a story about sympathy protests across Canada, and one decrying the racist behavior of the South Shore mobs and the inactivity of the police during the stoning of native Canadians. Andre Picard deduced that the message conveyed was that "racism is acceptable" (August 30, 1990, page A4). The incident was reported only in passing in the *Times* when Hedges mentioned that the Mohawks were stoned as a result of frustrations over the closed bridge (Sept. 5, 1990, page A11).

According to Brian MacLean, a University of British Columbia criminology professor, "Allowing whites to throw stones at natives with impunity demonstrates that the police are biased in their application of the law" (*Globe and Mail*, August 30, 1990, page

A4). Racism is the key issue in much of the controversy surrounding the Mohawk barricades, whether it is related to the government or police or to racist mobs, but none of these issues was deemed important by the powers that be at the *New York Times*.

The barricades went down at the beginning of September but the army remained in the area. On Sept. 8, troops raided Kahnawake with tear gas, helicopters and "armored personnel carriers," sending dozens of people to the hospital. The raid was ostensibly a weapons search, but also threatened the position of 50 to 100 Mohawks, including children, and 10 reporters who had sought refuge in a treatment center. There was no report in the *Times*, but CNN, the *New York Post* and *New York Newsday* all covered the incident.

On the same day, soldiers at Oka fixed their bayonets and drew their guns to keep Mohawks contained by the army's barbed wire. The only mention of the incident in the *Times* came in the Week in Review section where Hedges hypothesized over reasons for Native discontent. The story, accompanied by a photo of a Mohawk struggling with a soldier, focuses on Mohawk gambling operations rather than native sovereignty.

A total of 29 Mohawks were arrested throughout the army's occupation, and there have been reports that they have been maltreated and tortured in jail.

The Mohawks agreed to lay down their weapons and leave the treatment center on Sept. 26, but when they left the reservation, they were attacked by soldiers with bayonets. The Canadian papers featured front-page photos of soldiers tackling women with children in their arms. The *New York Times* said nothing.

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